

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1518

USIA PASS IEA

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON STUDENTS/BANDUNG SITUATION

REF: JAKARTA 1444 (DTG 010920Z FEB 78)

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH THE SITUATIONIN BANDUNG IS NOT
ENTIRELY CLEAR, TROOPS APPEAR TO HAVE ENTERED AND TAKEN
CONTROL OF THE CITY'S PRINCIPAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES ON
FEBRUARY 1 AND LARGELY WITHDRAWN TODAY, WITHOUT A CONFRON-
TATION WITH STUDENTS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONFIRMED SOME
NEW ARRESTS, PROBABLY INVOLVING ONLY A FEW STUDENTS.
INDONESIA'S UNIVERSITY RECTORS WILL MEET ON FEBRUARY 14 TO RECEIVE
UPDATED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.
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2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT
THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BANDUNG FROM STUDENT, PRESS AND
DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, IT APPEARS THAT TROOPS,WHO ENTERED
AND TOOK EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE CITY'S MAJOR UNIVERSITY
CAMPUSES ON FEBRUARY 1, HAVE LARGELY WITHDRAWN TODAY.
THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN SECURITY

FORCES AND STUDENTS OR OF ANY VIOLENCE. ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO CLAIM STUDENTS TILL "HOLD" THE BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (ITB) CAMPUS, WITH TROOPS SEALING IT FROM OUTSIDE, AGREE THE SITUATION IS NOW CALM BUT FLUID.

3. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, KOSTRAD TROOPS MOVED ONTO THE ITB CAMPUS EARLY IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 1 BUT WITHDREW TO THE PERIMETER TODAY. STUDENTS HAVE RETURNED TO THE CAMPUS THIS AFTERNOON IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS. THE SAME SOURCES ALSO SAY THAT SILIWANGI DIVISION TROOPS ARE IN POSITIONS SOME 500 METERS FROM CAMPUS, PERHAPS TO MONITOR ACCESS ROUTES TO THE CAMPUS AND SERVE AS A RESERVE. THE WIFE OF JUSTICE MINISTER AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR TOLD US THAT MILITARY-ENFORCED SECURITY WAS SO TIGHT AT THE PAJAJARAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS THAT SHE WAS UNABLE TO ENTER THE GROUNDSTO PICK UP HER HUSBAND'S PAYCHECK (MOCHTAR IS STILL A MEMBER OF THE PAJAJARAN STAFF).

4. EDUCATION AND CULTURE MINISTER SYARIF THAYEB CONFIRMED TO THE PRESS YESTERDAY THAT SOME NEW ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INDONESIAN OBSERVER RAN AN AFP ACCOUNT OF THAYEB'S STATEMENT SAYING THAT FOUR STUDENTS HAD BEEN NEWLY ARRESTED, BUT LOCAL ACCOUNTS DID NOT PUT A NUMBER ON THE NEW DETAINEES. THAYEB ALSO SAID AGAIN THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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10 STUDENTS SOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT REMAIN AT LARGE, SEVEN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI), APPARENTLY INCLUDING THE STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN LUKMAN HAKIM. THE EDUCATION MINISTER CHIDED THE UI SEVEN FOR "GETTING THEIR FRIENDS ARRESTED AND THEN RUNNING AWAY."

5. TWO OTHER PROMINENT DISSIDENT LEADERS ARE NOW KNOWN TO BE AMONG THOSE STILL HELD--ITB'S STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HERI ACHMADI, WHO REPORTEDLY GAVE HIMSELF UP, AND ARIEF RACHMAN HAKIM, THIRD VICE-RECTOR OF JAKARTA'S TEACHERS' TRAINING INSTITUTE (IKIP) AND THE INSTRUCTOR (UNTIL LAST FRIDAY) ON INDONESIAN TELEVISION'S POPULAR ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE. MALARI DETAINEES HARIMAN SIREGAR AND BAMBANG SOELESTOMO, HOWEVER, HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN RELEASED.

6. THE RECTORS OF INDONESIA'S 40 LARGEST UNIVERSITIES WILL MEET IN JAKARTA FROM FEBRUARY 14-17 TO GET NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THAYEB AND FROM KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADM. SUDOMO. THE RECTORS WILL ALSO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO. ACCORDING TO ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT, THREE RECTORS--FROM UI, BANDUNG IKIP AND BANDUNG

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (IPB)--TRIED TO MEET WITH
SUHARTO LAST MONDAY TO PRESENT A LIST OF DEMANDS BUT
WERE TURNED AWAY. THE THREE DID MEET WITH THAYEB ON
MONDAY FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS BUT WERE UNWILLING TO
REVEAL WHAT WAS DISCUSSED.
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